

# DUNAMIS

Power Hour

for the love of the Word

----- journey through the Bible -----



# **When Judges Ruled**

**Judges 1;1-3;6**

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED TONIGHT .....

The key to Judges

Background to Judges and their rule

Opposing tribes and their influence over Israel

Israel's disobedience to God

The results of sin

The sinful cycle

Conclusion



## THE KEY TO JUDGES ....

Judges 2;10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers ,another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel .

John 14;21 He who has My commandments and keeps them ,it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father , and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

Judge : Hebrew word sapat translated “judge” in the book of Judges; The word implies every function of Government not just the judicial . They were governors in the fullest sense . They were military leaders with executive and legislative power as well as judicial power. They were divinely appointed to deliver God's people when the people turned from idols and returned back to God !

**ISRAEL DENIED HER HERITAGE , HER IDENTITY , HER GOD**



# BACKGROUND TO JUDGES AND THEIR RULE .....

Judges governed Israel during a period of moral decay ( Dark ages of Hebrew history ) between 1390 and 1050 BC

Judges had regional influence over either a single tribe or several tribes

Judges ruled from Joshua's generation to approximately the fourth year of Solomon.

The ministry of the judges overlapped

Judges in a way is another book of beginnings as we see a new nation adjusting to her national lifestyle

There were three types of Judges :

- 1) The warrior judges such as Gideon and Samson
- 2) Priest judges such as Eli
- 3) Prophet judges such as Deborah and Samuel

The chief judges were Samuel, Samson, Gideon and Deborah

There were 14 judges : Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola , Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan , Abdon, Samson, Elon, Eli, and Samuel. ( Eli and Samuel are covered in the book of 1 Samuel )

Judges 2;16 Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.



## OPPOSING TRIBES AND THEIR INFLUENCE OVER ISRAEL .....

Joshua dies . People consult God for strategy how to possess the land given to them as an inheritance. Judah , the kingly tribe , appointed by God to lead the way in possessing the land .

The opposition to Israel were the Canaanites who occupied the hill territory and the lowlands of the promised land and the Philistines who we will see play a major role in the history of Israel going forward. God's instruction was to drive them out and destroy them completely .

Israel had some success in the hilly areas but failed to conquer the lowlands due to the strength of the Canaanites.

Judges 1;19 So the Lord was with Judah . And they drove out the mountaineers , but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland , because they had chariots of iron.

Israel did not obey the word of the Lord :

1: 27 However Manasseh did not : 1;29 Nor did Ephraim ; 1;30 Nor did Zebulun ; 1;31 Nor did Asher  
1;30 Nor did Naphtali

Other tribes also influencing Israel : Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites





## ISRAEL'S DISSOBEDIANCE TO GOD ....

On your own go and read Joshua 23 and 24 : Joshua's warning to the tribes of Israel

**WARNING :**

Have nothing to do with the inhabitants of the promised land , destroy them, drive them out , don't serve their gods , don't intermarry , keep yourselves pure , serve God only ;

**OUTCOME :**

They made them slaves and used them as servants

They worshipped the idols of the nation

Became morally corrupt

Intermarried

Forsook the commandments of the Lord :

Judges 2;1-3 Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochin, and said: I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers : and I said I will never break My covenant with you . And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land : you shall tear down their alters . But you have not obeyed My voice . Why have you done this ? Therefore, I also said I will not drive them out before you : but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you .



## DISOBEDIENCE VERSUS OBEDIENCE . THE RESULTS OF SIN ...

Judges 2 ;11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals; 12 and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers who had brought them out of the land of Egypt: and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them , and they bowed down to them : and they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths .

V14; Delivered into the hands of the plunderers . Overcome and weak

V15: Hand of the Lord was against them , distressed

V17: Would not listen to the judges , disobedience

V18 : Oppressed , harassed , groanings to God

V19 ; More corrupt, stubborn , did their own thing ( familiar )

V20 Transgressed .

Judges 3; 4 And they were left , that He might test Israel by them , to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord , which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses .





# THE SINFUL CYCLE

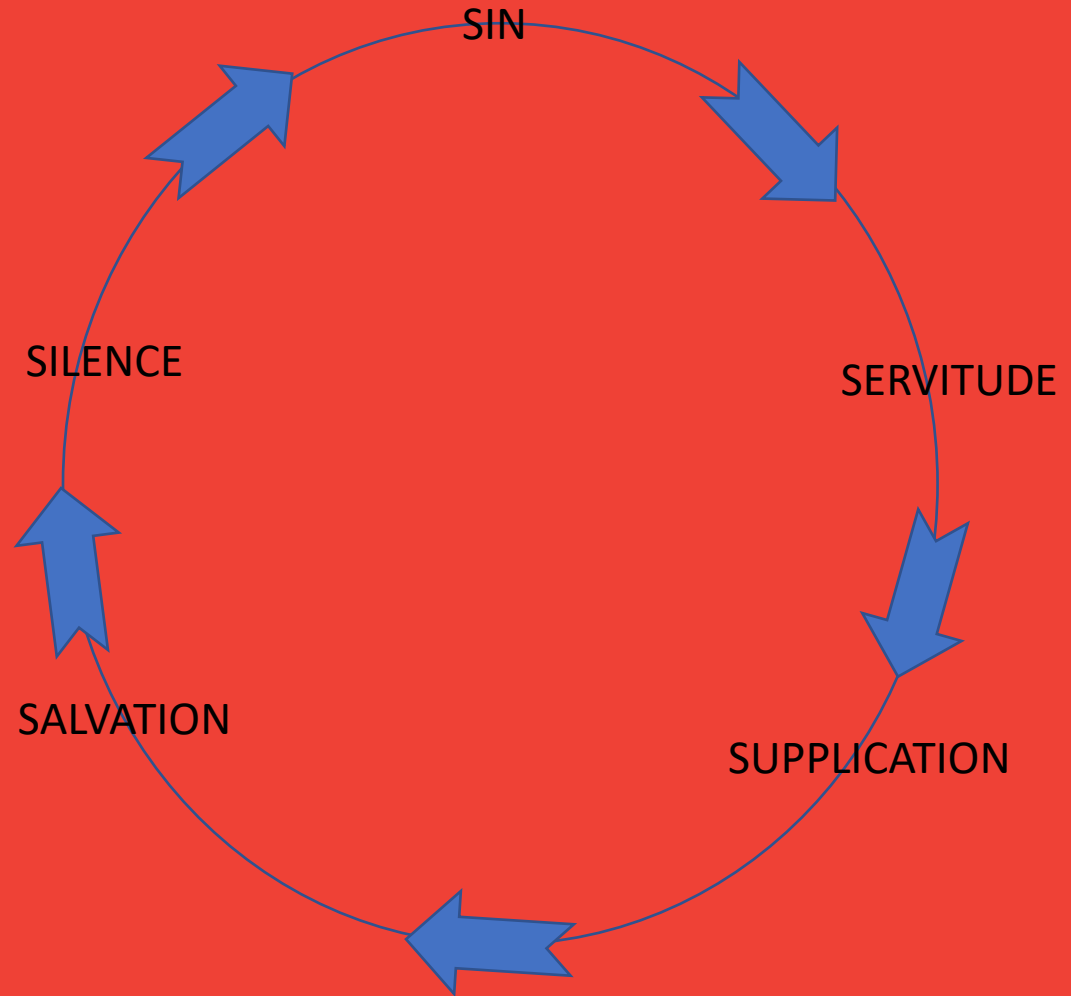
Judges 17;6 In those days there was no king in Israel :everyone did what was right in his own eyes

Judges 2;13 They forsook the Lord and served Baal and Ashtoreths.

Judges is full of rebellion, punishment, misery , deliverance , compromise and confusion.

People who spend their life in disobedience make little progress during their lifetime

Summary of Judges : Seven apostasies  
Seven servitudes to seven idolatrous and cruel nations , and seven deliverances !



# Conclusion

The wickedness of the human heart

God is able to use weak things and bring victory with them.

God uses situations for His good and to see how we react to them

Righteousness calls for separation from the world , remain holy , obedient , keep the commandments , wage war against sin and unrighteousness

Remember : Israel is a chosen people , called out by God , God made a covenant with them , a holy people ,



QUESTIONS ?



power in action

**Next weeks topic**

**Heroes and  
Heroines**

**Judges 3;7- 16;31**